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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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MAY 12, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 4475.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4475) granting a pension to Catherine Gaffney, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives hereto appended is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

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HOUSE REPORT.

Your committee have examined the facts in connection with this claim and report in favor of the passage of the bill. The facts disclosed are somewhat remarkable. The claimant, while yet a minor, about the year 1846 married one Thomas Madigan. He was intemperate in his habits and occasionally left home, always returning, however, after a brief interval. They were married near Buffalo, N. Y. In the year 1852 he left for Cleveland. Soon afterwards she heard from relatives at Cleveland that he had been accidentally killed while loading a vessel. Madigan has never returned to her since that time, and neither she nor any of her kindred have ever heard from him. A diligent search of the city directories of Cleveland and Buffalo fails to disclose his presence in either of those cities after the year when the report of his death was received. Later, about the year 1858, she married one Cornelius Sullivan, who enlisted in the Army at the beginning of the war and was killed in battle in the year 1862. As the widow of Sullivan she applied for and obtained a pension, and also a pension as guardian of each of two minor children who have since died.

On November 4, 1864, she married Michael Gaffney, at Buffalo, N. Y., a soldier in the war, who lived with her until October, 1885, when he died at Cleveland. The evidence discloses that his death was caused by a hemorrhage, which, according to the evidence, was contracted in the service. Her marriage to Gaffney, his military service, his death from a cause resulting from his military service, all appear to be clearly proven by the evidence, but her claim has been rejected at the Pension Office on the ground that there is no adequate proof that her first husband, Thomas Madigan, who disappeared in 1852, is dead.

Other circumstances are brought to our attention, namely, that she is now nearly 70 years of age, lives in two rooms scantily furnished, with one child, who is a cripple, supports herself as a washerwoman, and, notwithstanding the difficulties of her situation, bears a most excellent reputation among her neighbors for industry and moral character.

Your committee recommend that the bill do pass.